International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/LTC/1

Legal and Technical Commission

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Twenty-first session
Kingston, Jamaica
13-24 July 2015

Agenda of the Legal and Technical Commission[1]

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair.

A. Activities of contractors

4. Report on the status of prospecting and contracts for exploration.
5. Status of implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and allocation of training opportunities.
6. Review of the recommended template for annual reports of contractors.
7. Review of the recommendations for the guidance of contractors on the reporting of actual and direct exploration expenditures.
8. Consideration of the outcomes of the international workshop on polymetallic nodules resource classification held in Goa, India, from 13 to 17 October 2014.
9. Consideration of the annual reports of contractors.[2]

B. Applications for approval of plans of work for exploration in the Area

10. Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration[3] *for:*

[1] The Commission will meet twice in 2015. The first meeting will be held from 16 to 27 February 2015; the second meeting will take place during the twenty-first session of the Authority from 6 to 24 July 2015. Unless otherwise indicated, the items in the provisional agenda will be taken up by the Commission at its first meeting.

[2] To be taken up at the July meeting.

[3] Applications for approval of plans of work for exploration will be considered in the order of receipt.

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(a) Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts;

(b) Polymetallic nodules;

(c) Polymetallic sulphides.

C. Environmental management plans

11. Issues relating to the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone and to the development of other environmental management plans in the Area.

D. Draft regulations for exploitation

12. Consideration and approval of draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

E. Data management and standardization

13. Update on progress with the data management strategy of the Authority.

14. Consideration of the outcomes of the International Workshop on Taxonomic Methods and Standardization of Macrofauna in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, held in Uljin-gun, Republic of Korea, from 23 to 30 November 2014.

F. Matters referred to the Commission by the Council

15. Consideration and approval of procedures and criteria for applications for extensions of contracts for exploration.

16. Issues related to the sponsorship by States of contracts of exploration in the Area, with particular attention to the test of effective control, as well as issues related to monopolization of activities in the Area, taking into consideration, in particular, the concept of abuse of a dominant position.[2]

17. Preparation of draft procedures on the handling of confidential data and information, as provided for in rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Commission.[2]

G. Other matters

18. Other matters.